# THOUSANDS OF OUR MINES HEMMED IN PIRATE U-BOATS

COMMANDING MINE SQUADRON

Greatest Naval Task of War Outside of Convoy Duty Kept Squadron of Ten Laying Vessels and Another of Carrying Craft Busy

By Captain REGINALD R. BEL-KNAP, U.S.N., Commanding Mine Squadron 1, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. From the time the United States joined

from the time the United States joined in the war our Navy Department urged strong measures, essentially offensive, to hem in the enemy bases, so that fewer submarines might get out, or, if already out, get back. Among the many projects put forward a new American invention came to the notice of the Bureau of Ordnance, where its possibilities were quickly perceived. A few quiet but searching experiments developed it into a mine of more promising effectiveness than any ever before used, especially against submarines. This gave the United for an anti-submarine barrage on the German coast or elsewhere, and the re-

Capt. H. V. Butler, and her consort Bal-timore, Capt. A. W. Marshall, crack crusers of the vintage of 1890, still going strong, and eight former merchant ssels converted into naval mine plant-

Eight Merchant Craft Converted. Four of these were Southern Pacific or Four of these were Southern Pacific or Morgan liners, now named the Roamoke, Capt. C. D. Stearns; Canonicus, Capt. T. L. Johnson; Housatonic, Capt. J. W. Greenslade, and Canandaigua, Commander W. H. Reynolds, Two were the Old Dominion passenger line's Jefferson and Hamilton, running between New York and Norfolk, now named Quinnebaug, Commander D. Pratt Mannix, and Saranac, Capt. Sinclair Gannon. The other two were the fast Boston and New York passenger steamboats, Massa. New York passenger steamboats, Massa-causetts and Bunker Hill of the Eastern Steamship Corporation, renamed Shaw-mut, Capt. W. T. Cluverius, and Aroo-stock, Capt. J. Harvey Tomb.

stock, Capt. J. Harvey Tomb.
All are in regular naval commission, each carrying 20 officers and 400 men. They are armed only lightly for defence sgainst submarines and aircraft, their descriptions are arrying as

HMS. VAMPIRE LAYING A SMOKE SCREEN; U.S.S. SHAWMUT FLYING THE U-BOAT WARNING

When the United States entered the States entered

only One Carrier Sank.

Sixth Hatte supports on the rash traffice only all young and it the set shortage, labor difficulties and seven weather of last winter this work and the state of the winter this work and the state of the strength of

## Squadron Much Admired.

The converted vessels proved very successful for their purpose and were much admired by British officers as well as our own for their compact, capacious and well ordered arrangement, especially the Bannets along and of their compact and selections. mines, all of them on tracks, ready to be planted in one unbroken line. The two of the Quinnebaug class are

similar but smaller, carrying 600 mb each, but the Shawmut and Aroestock are different, having higher speed with only molerate capacity for mines—350 each—all carried on one deck. total of 4,000 to 5,500 mines, each

approximately of the value of a Ford car carried by the squadron on its trips as one load, alone represented what would in former days have been considnumerous planting operations. At least 800 mines carried by one vessel of

## WOMAN'S WIT TO THE FORE.

This happened in a crowded subway less the other night: An old man ourded the train at Times Square staand clung to a strap in front of a une coman who was seated. As none the men showed a disposition to let od man sit down the young woman

man slid into the vacant seat. The young woman was confused, but only for an instant. She leaned down and seld to the man in the seat: You dropped an envelope on the floor,

The man jumped up and started to wie's hunt failed to reveal it, so he turned to where the woman was stand-

"Say, lady, where is that envelope?" I can't find it on the floor."
"That envelope," replied the young

woman, "he in the same place your man coung man understood and faded from view. The old man got the seat, while those near by leoked, listened and



for an anti-submarine barrage on the German coast or elsewhere, and the result is the present northern mine barrage in the North Sea, stretching from the Orkneys 230 miles to Norway. The Secretary of the Navy's annual report characterizes this as "the outstanding anti-submarine offensive product of the year."

Mine Squadron One of our Atlantic fleet, familiarly known as "the Yankee Mining Squadron," has just returned from its six months activity in the North Sea, laying mines in the northern barrage. The squadron, commanded by Capt. Reginald R. Belknap, U. S. N., consists of the flagship San Francisco, Capt. H. V. Butler, and her consort Bal-



Admiral Strauss, U. S. N., to draw out the German fleet, the squad-went out, and on the next excursion, which was done by the American and high efficer as "an Important military which squadrons together, he was in offensive with a front seat at the second command of both, flying his flag on the battle of Jutiand."

which was done by the American and high efficer as "an Important military affect of the first battle one of the most successful efforts of the squadron signalled the mine squadron whole war by any of the forces enwhich was done by the American and British squadrons together, he was in-command of both, flying his flag on the San Francisco. The mine field on this occasion closed the western end of the barrier off the Orkneys, making it com-plete. The ninth excursion was similar, but with Bear Admiral Clinton-Barker,



squadrons were expected to serve as bait

### U-Bont Alarm Met Quickiy,

This everpresent possibility and the This everpresent possibility and the fact that the working ground lay in the principal thoroughfare of enough submarines, with attendant incidents of periscope sightings, submarine reports, depth charges, smoke screens, floating mines and dead German sallers floating mines and dead German sallers floating by lent spice to the work, which, like the proverbial sporting life, was often hard, but never dull.

One heaulful evening's serenity was rudely broken by three simultaneous warnings—by semaphore, by radio and by flashing light from the cruiser support in the haze ahead—against a sub-

ert in the haze shead-against a sul narine a few miles distant. The organization took no chances, but on the tact turned his destroyers outward, and four heavy, deep explosions, first on one side, then four more on the other, shook the equadron and showed the submarine

the squadron and showed the submarine what it might expect.

The Arosatosk added a touch by shricking her siren for "torneds to sterboard," herself charging across another sing's hows to avoid in Being in a chantel newly swept for mines the squadron had little chance for mansarying so it held on its course, merely changing from two columns to three earlier than intended in order by shortening the formation to decrease the

ers' crews. Mines are bulky shipmates, and when on board, as they were most of the time, the men had to squeeze in the chinks, just living around, and then no smoking below! no moving pictures had and grammed quarters, close in the Walderf apartments.

| Comparison of the University Forum Newton W. Gilbert, who was covernor of the Philippine for six years, gave an address on "The Philippine Islands." The heatesses were Mrs. Newton

Admiral Magnes, squadron signalled the mine squared his wishes for a speedy return home. With "much regret in parting with such a splendid force and such a brave bunch," and Vice-Admiral Falsenham from H. M. S. Loon signalled "the gratitude and admiration of the battle trailiser force and united wishes for a improverture to your country."

And so the mine squadron had researched the property of the North Sea barrier. And so the mine squadron had researched the property of the North Sea barrier.

And so the mine squadron in having successfully accomplished its large part in an arduous and bazardous operation which has contributed much to the enemy's final defeat. And this feeling of with the

turned out and cheered, and a seaplane probably one that had patrolled for submarines while the squadron was planting on some of its excursione—alled over and around the San Fransisco, each time nearer, until he swooped by with a roar and a wave of the hand, so near that his wing tip passed not twenty feet from the bridge.

Assistant Secretary Franklin D.

Daring Plan Costing Millions Made Danger Chain 250 Miles Long From Norway to the Orkneys and Sank the Huns Trying to Escape

Roosevelt had visited the mine force on August 30, and was much pleased with what he saw. Early in October Admiral Mayo, commander in chief United States Mayo, commander in chief United States Atlantic fleet, visited the mine force and congratulated it on the work it had accomplished; and just before the mine squadron sailed for home. Admiral Bims, addressing the officers and men assembled on board the flagship San Francisco, said that the mine force had done the barrage possible could be tested only part at a time, never as an entirety until, months after, many million delars and pounds sterling had been spent or committed to the plan. This unordered the derivative of the part of Rear Admiral Earle, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, and his assistant for mines, Commander side, then the other.

Portland, England, homeward bound, the squadron sailed for home, Admiral Sims, addressing the officers and men as embled on board the flagship San Francisco, said that the mine force had done a stunt the like of which had not been done in the world before. He also said that after we came into the war our many designed a mine, built it, equipped the mine planters and planted more side, then the other. through mine swept channels and near through mine swept channels and near other mine fields, no ship ever came to grief—thanks largely to Capt. Rutler and Navigator Commingham of the flagship.

On the seventh excursion, starting on the seventh excursion, starting the field by the event. The field by the event to grief in keeping the enemy substitute of the satisfaction of the squadron fell silent while passing the German ships until, near the end of their anchorage on the opposite of the responding lifet to the satisfaction for the bardship and responding lifet to the satisfaction for the squadron fell silent while passing the German ships until, near the end of their anchorage on the opposite of the responding lifet to the satisfaction for the squadron fell silent while passing the German ships until, near the end of their anchorage on the opposite of the responding lifet to the satisfaction for the squadron fell silent while passing the German ships until, near the end of their anchorage on the opposite of the responding lifet to the satisfaction for the squadron fell silent while passing the German ships until, near the end of their anchorage on the opposite of the responding lifet to the satisfaction for the squadron fell silent while satisfaction for th

Admiral Madden of the first battle one of the most successful efforts of the squadron signalled the mine squadron wishes for a speedy return home, gaged, while the Relieb

As the squadron passed out of the carrier, the garrisons at the entrance turned out and cheered, and a seaplane one that had patrolled for original mine force, the establishment of the high seasons are the carrier of the At-

## IN WORLD OF SOCIETY

Mrs. Louis C. Farrar gave an interesting of officers.

chantel newly swept for mines the squadron had little chance for manuscring so it held on its course, merely changing from tax columns to three earlier than intended in order by shortening the formation to decrease the submarines target before settling down for the night.

On every excursion also during the mine laying one or more of the mines would go off fairly close astern—lest we forget! The mines were very sensitive, Pouch Mansion.

Mrs. Louis C. Farrar gave an interesting of of officers.

Mrs. William L. Voight of 222 Riverside Drive was in charge of the runmage sale held on Friday and Saturday at 246 East 112th street under the auspices of the Harlem Council of Women.

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Mrs. Halsey is president of the council. Dr. John Willis Slaughter is giving a series of monthly lectures on council. The mines were very sensitive.

Pouch Mansion.

The next meeting of the New York ands." The hostesses were Mrs. Newton City Colony, National Society of New England Women, Miss Sarn A. Falmer president, will be held the middle of February. The colony celebrated its Robertson, Mrs. M. Everett Tongue, Miss Marie L. Adams, Miss Alice M. Betty and Miss Gladys Grace. Byron.

A silver tea will be given by Mrs. G.

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A Walter at her home, 368 West Ninetierle of Arizona were among the guests
of the New York Fresh Air Fund for
Adults and Elderly People, Mrs. Edward
W. Hooke president, on Wednesday at
the Hall Arizon The reasonance here.

A silver tea will be given by Mrs. G.

A Walter at her home, 368 West Nine
tieth street on Tuesday from 3 to 5 P. M.
for the benefit of the hespital in connection with the women's auxiliary to the
rescue work of the Salvation Army.
There will be an entertainment and a
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M. Walter at her home, 368 Wes number of club presidents will be guests. Mrs. Walter, who is a vice president of the auxiliary, will be assisted by the officers and personal friends. The next regular meeting will be held in the home on February 25.

## Y'S CRADLE, FIRE SWEPT, TO BE IDEAL C Americans will be much interested in ing streets, devoid of air and light, and ditions. Two world famous landscape | Thus the present generation has seen discovery of unknown Byzantine

one of the most important of public dings, unsanitary houses.

architects were invited to replan the most important of public dings, unsanitary houses.

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architects were invited to replan the history of a city in for centuries. Another church, St. putting them into effect; but these are which St. Paul preached the Gospel of Sophia, named after the Greek Cathedral all arranged by a special remainded history of Sophia, named after the Greek Cathedral all arranged by a special remainded history of Sophia, named after the Greek Cathedral all arranged by a special remainded history of Sophia, named after the Greek Cathedral all arranged by a special remainded history of Sophia, named after the Greek Cathedral all arranged by a special remainded history of contracts. mines, all of them on tracks, ready to be pushed aft and overboard. These ships had been fitted with several elevators by the Oils company, so that all the mines carried on the lower decks could be quickly raised to the permitting the special figure permitting the ships entire load to the planted in one unbroken line.

The Greek Government, immediately a sponial remnission to the Gospel of Sophia, named after the Greek Cathedral all arranged by a sponial remnission. The chief Rebig of Salomea has responsible to the Christian combination of St. Sophia in Constantinople, was supply, smultiss if ranged of Salomea has response to the colorade city multiss fraggles and with it many mosales of great the necessary steps to relieve the necess

The Dixte Club of New York, Mrs. Ernest Malcolm president, is to have a function on March 4, and will be use of the first clubs to entertain at the new Commodure Hotel. The next meeting of the Dixie Club will be held at the Hotel

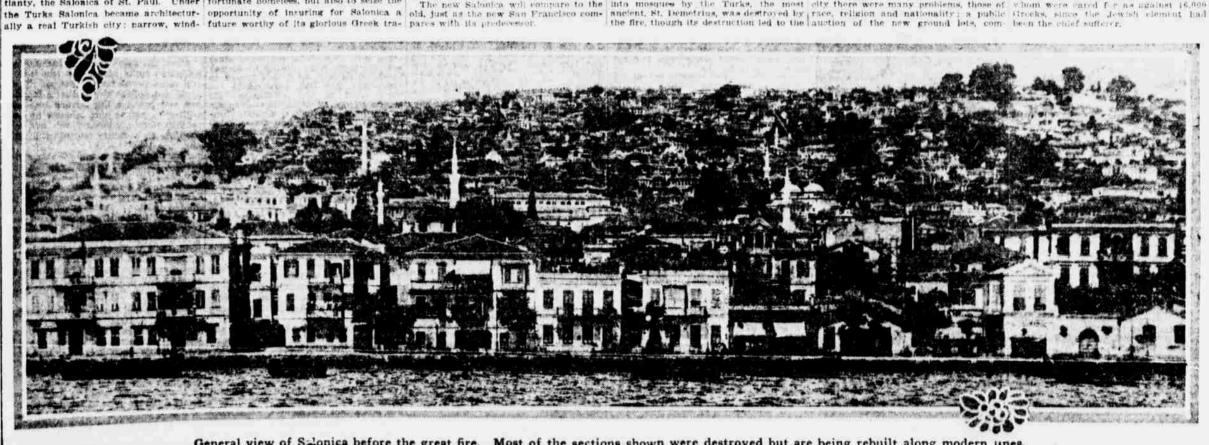
The New York County Woman Suf-frage Association, Mrs. Nellie It Van Singerland president, held its January meeting Tuesday at the Hotel St. Anmeeting Pursuay at the Hotel St. Andirew. The association and the leagues comprising it voted manimously to un-dertake an entertailment to benefit the dertake an entertalisment to benefit the Working Girls Hotel of the New York ity Federation of Woman's Clubs. The association also voted to usual the Ret-terment League in its efforts to home. Hetterment club houses in gvery hor-

Delegates elected to the City Fed ration convention were Miss Laura Steele, Mrs. Viola Burkhardt, Mrs. George Fun-ther, and the alternates were Mrs. Julie Reinhart, Miss Bellucel, Mica Constinu B. Ross.

## SEABREEZE.

SEASINGER, Pla., Jan 25 -The opening dinner dance at the Hotel Chrondon was the smartest event in the history of the hotel, and 345 guests colored the dinner and dancing afterward. This gives an idea of the brilliance expected of the Former Senater Francis M. Hendricks

Former Senator Francis M. Heintricks of New York, with his niece. Miss Katharine Hendricks, will spend the winter as usual at the Clarendon. Mrs. Hutton Wood of New York, who is going to Honoluig and Cauffordia with his tireth Honologia and California with hir brothers, Frank and E. L. Hutton, may come Verkers here include Mr. and Mrs. R. Coell St. George, Mrs. J. I. Hretz, Major Raymond G. Keeney, Mrs. Reeney, Miss. Katharine Keeney, Gen. C. C. Jamleron, U. S. A.: Mrs. Jamleron, Miss Eleanor Jamleson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Davis and Mr. and Mrs. W. Ballin Hinds.



General view of Salonica before the great fire. Most of the sections shown were destroyed but are being rebuilt along modern unes.